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# STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

SS-5

MARCH 31, 1943

## FARMERS' INTENTIONS FOR 1943 ACREAGE

Annual report on farmers' intentions to plant, made as of March 1, indicated some increase in total crop acreage this year over last. Principal increases indicated, as compared with acreage planted in 1942, are dried peas 35 percent, beans 16 percent, soybeans 10 percent, peanuts 12 percent, potatoes 14 percent, sweetpotatoes 15 percent, spring wheat about 4 percent, corn 6 percent, and flaxseed acreage 29 percent. Acreage planned for these major crops totals about 279 million acres, an increase of nearly 10 million acres (3.5 percent) over last year. Over half the increase planned is in corn. The crops for which intention is to decrease acreage are cowpeas 13 percent, sugar beets 29.5 percent, and barley about 1 percent. Oats, rice, and hay acreages are substantially unchanged.

Among the truck crops, prospective increases are shown in cabbage 3 percent (over acreage harvested last year), early Irish potatoes 10 percent, green peas for processing 5 percent; and decreases in onions 17 percent, and watermelons 40 percent.

## DAIRY

**Milk Production:** February total of 8.4 billion pounds, greater than any previous February record and 1 percent above output for February last year. Production per cow off slightly but more than offset by more cows. Percentage of cows being milked March 1 was 66.5, smallest on that date since 1937. **Butter:** Production increasing seasonally; during February and early March was about 5 percent over last year. Cold storage stocks of butter on hand March 1 were 12.3 million pounds, compared with 30.2 million, the 1935-39 March average. Total butter available for civilian consumption in 1943 expected to be around 12.7 pounds per capita, compared with 16 pounds last year and 16.8 in 1935-39. Thirty percent of all butter reserved for war purposes. **Cheese:** Storage stocks declining rapidly; but cheese stocks on hand March 1 were 94.5 million

pounds, compared with 84 million, the 1935-39 average for that date. **Evaporated Milk:** Manufacturers' stocks February 1 totaled 94 million pounds compared with 83 million pounds on January 1. Total stocks, including those held by FDA, declined 76 million pounds during January but were still much above average. Output 35 percent below a year ago but still 20 percent above like period in 1941. **Dried Milk:** Production of dried whole milk in January 8 million pounds, largest of any month on record. Manufacturers' stocks of dried skim milk February 1 totaled 27 million pounds, 27 percent above the year previous.

## LIVESTOCK

**Hogs:** Inspected slaughter during February 4.3 million head, 20 percent less than in January but 11 percent above February 1942. Hogs running heavier; average live weight at seven important markets during February 258 pounds, 15 pounds heavier than a year earlier and 17 pounds heavier than 1936-41 February average. Average price of butcher hogs at Chicago in mid-March \$15.75 per hundred-weight, 35 cents higher than the month before and \$2.30 above a year ago. Cold storage holdings of pork totaled 628.4 million pounds on March 1, which was 11.9 million above a year earlier

but 8.3 million below average. Lard and rendered pork fat holdings March 1 were 123.7 million pounds, lowest for the date since 1935 and 82.7 million pounds below 1938-42 average.

**Cattle:** Lower grades of cattle have shown most increase in price recently; cows and beef bulls now selling close to medium-to-good grades of slaughter steers. Feeder cattle also up; mid-March average price of feeder steers at Kansas City \$14.25, the highest level on record, \$2.42 above the October average. Cattle slaughter reduced; total killed under Federal inspection in February was 854,000 head, 8 percent less than in January and 4 percent under a year earlier. Calf slaughter under Federal inspection 331,000 head, 16

## PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED<sup>1</sup>

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	FEB. 15 1943	MAR. 15 1943	
Cotton, lb. . . . . ct.	19.68	19.91	19.96
Wheat, bu. . . . . ct.	119.5	122.7	142.3
Corn, bu. . . . . ct.	90.4	94.8	103.4
Oats, bu. . . . . ct.	55.5	58.4	64.2
Potatoes, bu. . . . . ct.	125.7	145.1	116.1
Tobacco, lb.:			
Types 21-24 . . . . . ct.	17.0	16.1	13.9
Apples, bu. . . . . dol.	1.71	1.85	1.55
Cattle, 100 lb. . . . . dol.	12.36	12.80	8.73
Calves, 100 lb. . . . . dol.	14.18	14.45	10.87
Hogs, 100 lb. . . . . dol.	14.63	14.67	11.70
Lambs, 100 lb. . . . . dol.	13.77	13.98	9.47
Eggs, doz. . . . . ct.	34.2	34.0	<sup>2</sup> 28.4
Chickens, live, lb. . . . . ct.	22.8	23.5	18.4
Butterfat, lb. . . . . ct.	50.0	50.5	<sup>2</sup> 42.9
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. . . dol.	3.06	3.04	<sup>2</sup> 5.54
Peanuts, lb. . . . . ct.	6.45	6.83	7.73
Peanuts, for oil, lb. . . . . ct.	4.03	3.82	<sup>3</sup> 3.78

<sup>1</sup>Prices are shown for only those commodities except cotton for which 5 percent or more of annual sales are made by farmers during March. <sup>2</sup>Adjusted for seasonal variation. <sup>3</sup>Comparable prices.



percent less than a year ago and smallest February slaughter since 1933.

*Sheep and Lambs:* Federally inspected slaughter during February was the largest February total on record—1.5 million head, 13 percent below January but 7 percent more than a year earlier.

#### POULTRY AND EGGS

Production of eggs in the United States in 1943 likely to exceed 5 billion dozens, compared with 4.4 billion dozens produced in 1942. Per capita production this year will be by far the largest on record. Consumption per capita probably will exceed the previous record of 342 eggs consumed per person in 1927. Last year per capita consumption was 320 eggs, and in 1941 was 314 eggs per person.

Revised estimate of total chicken meat produced in the United States in 1942, dressed weight basis, was 2.9 billion pounds. Per capita consumption of chickens in 1942 was 21.9 pounds, dressed weight, compared with 19.5 pounds in 1941 and 18 pounds the 1936-40 average.

Per capita consumption of turkeys in 1942 was 3.75 pounds, dressed weight, (largest on record) compared with 3.58 pounds in 1941. Consumption of turkeys per capita has doubled since 1931.

#### FEED

Carry-over of corn expected to be around 500 million bushels next October 1. Of the 125 million bushels of Government-owned wheat sold so far during the current marketing year, 63 million were sold in North Central States. About 30 percent of the quantity sold in the United States was sold directly to farmers, balance to feed mixers or dealers. The estimated supply of oilcake and meal available for livestock feeding in 1943-44 may be not more than 6.2 million tons, or about 5 percent below the probable 1942-43 disappearance. Supplies of cottonseed cake and meal available for feeding in coming year may be down 10 to 20 percent.

#### FATS AND OILS

Production of fats and oils from domestic materials set a new high record of 10 billion pounds in 1942, compared with 9.4 billion in 1941. Production probably will exceed 11 billion pounds in 1943. Domestic disappearance of all primary fats and oils, including imported oils, totaled about 10.5 billion pounds in 1942.

#### FARM LABOR

*Employment:* Number of workers on farms March 1 was 8,730,000, up somewhat from previous month as is usual at this season; compares with 8,738,000 on March 1 a

year ago. Number of workers on farms this March lowest in 19 years of records. The March 1, 1935-39 average number of workers was 9,412,000. Number of family workers this March 7,003,000, about 1 percent more than a year ago; number hired workers 1,727,000, about 4 percent less than a year ago. Usually the number of hired workers increases about 5 percent from February to March; this year showed slight decrease.

#### MARKETING MARGINS

Retail cost of the annual family food basket (58 foods) per city family was \$430 in February 1943, up \$3 from January. Prices of these foods above 1929 level but still far below the record high of \$514 in 1920.

The farmer's share of the retail food dollar was

57 cents in February, up from 51 cents in February 1942.

Spread between retail cost of foods and payments to farmers (representing total charges for marketing service between farmers and consumers) dropped to \$185 in February, 2 percent below the 1942 average.

#### FARM INCOME

Cash income from farm marketings during February estimated at 1.131 million dollars, as compared with the revised figure of 1.261 million dollars in January and 833 millions in February last year. Government payments in February amounted to 79 million dollars against 100 million dollars the previous month. Cash farm income, including Government payments, totaled 1,210 million dollars in February compared with 1,361 million in January and 912 million dollars in February last year.

Cash income received by farmers from sale of meat animals in 1942 estimated at nearly 4.9 million dollars, roughly 50 percent more than previous year and 20 percent above 1918—the previous peak year. More stock sold and prices higher in 1942 than in 1941. Of total meat income, 49 percent came from cattle and calves, 44 percent hogs, and 7 percent sheep and lambs.

Cash farm income from dairy products in 1942 totaled about 2.3 billion dollars, 21 percent above 1941 and largest on record. Increase due to 3 percent more milk sold, prices 16 percent higher, and to some shift from sale of cream to whole milk. Income from milk in 1942 made up 15 percent of total cash farm income from all sources.

For more detailed information, write the Division of Economic Information, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., or telephone Republic 4142—Branch 4407

#### CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE

INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	MAR. 1943
Prices received by farmers . .	1910-14 = 100	182
Prices paid by farmers, interest and taxes . . . . .	1910-14 = 100	161
Parity ratio . . . . .		113
Wholesale prices of food . . .	1910-14 = 100	166
Retail prices of food . . . .	1910-14 = 100	<sup>1</sup> 172
Farm wage rates . . . . .	1910-14 = 100	<sup>2</sup> 223
Weekly factory earnings . . .	1910-14 = 100	366
RATIOS	LONG-TIME MAR. AVERAGE	MAR. 1943
Hog-corn ratio, U. S. . . . .	12.6	15.5
Butterfat-feed ratio, U. S. . .	24.8	26.7
Milk-feed ratio, U. S. . . . .	1.21	1.38
Egg-feed ratio, U. S. . . . .	14.4	17.7
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	JAN.-FEB. 1942	JAN.-FEB. 1943
Milk, (mil. lb.) . . . . .	17,038	17,153
Eggs, (mil.) . . . . .	7,224	8,344
Beef, <sup>3</sup> (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) . . .	1,030	944
Pork and lard <sup>3</sup> (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	1,749	1,865
All meats, <sup>3</sup> (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	2,998	3,012

<sup>1</sup>February figure. <sup>2</sup>January figure. Factory pay roll per employed worker adjusted for seasonal variation.  
<sup>3</sup>Federally inspected slaughter